# Air Quality Scales

(This is a really brief summary of air quality scales and how raw values are converted to AQI)

In general, there are different air quality scales in different countries.

The scales run from 0mg/ m3 to 500mg/ m3 to show the concentration of pollutants per cubic meter. Most scales tend to have same breakpoint[[1]](#footnote-0) at about 200mg/m3 above which the air quality is said to be very unhealthy.

Using a conversion calculator[[2]](#footnote-1), these values are then converted to AQI (Air Quality Index) value, which is then used to determine how polluted the air is, as well as forecast how polluted it is likely to be.

However, these scales do not indicate if these values vary depending on a particular pollutant or all pollutants combined since the effect of each of them is different at various concentrations.

1. <http://aqicn.org/faq/2015-03-20/a-comparison-of-worldwide-air-quality-scales-part-1/> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=resources.conc_aqi_calc> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)